both the countries? My third question is that when we discuss about the relations between India and Pakistan, we should keep in mind that these relations are of two countries, of two brothers and they are not our enemy...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER : Please ask the question; you are giving the suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister whether relations would be maintained on the basis of political considerations?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL In reply to the question asked by my dear friend, as far as the question of opening of a consulate is concerned, I would like to tell that we will open that office only when they will allow us to do so. We cannot take any decision unilaterally in this regard. But we are certainly trying for that. You might have seen that we have relaxed visa formalities considerably for those who wish to visit India As far as the matter regarding books is concerned, if there is any such rule which prevents their arrival into India, please bring it to my notice, we are ready to amend it suitably Nothing has come to my notice as yet due to which there is some difficulty in bringing books or newspaper in India However, we would try to ascertain whether there is any such rule and if it comes to my notice we would try to remove it As far as the question of visitors is concerned, they are most welcome. Whosoever wants to come here, he can come without any restrictions This country is open to all. We are quite liberal in such matters....*(Interruptions)* Whosoever wants to come here, we would welcome him *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SÁTYA DEO SINGH : Let there be liberalism to the hilt....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER : I have called the name of Dr Rongpi You do not have to exchange like that

DR JAYANTA RONGPI Mr Speaker, Sir, after the break down of Indo-Pak talks int he recent past, it is indeed a very positive step that Pakistan has expressed its willingness for a mutual dialogue Our Prime Minister also has emphasised people to people interactions and promotion of trade and cultural exhcanges It is indeed a positive step

I want to know from the hon Minister whether, in view of India's comparatively advantageous position and the strength of human resources-military or social composition - the Government of India would offer a 'No War Pact' to Pakistan to strengthen our friendship with them and to usher in an era of peace and brotherhood in the sub-continent

SHRI I K GUJRAL : My hon. friend has asked me to spell out what I shall offer or what I shall not offer I think, this is not the occasion for me to react to that. The Prime Minister of India has offered that we are willing to discuss every subject in the world. It includes what he is saying. Therefore, whenever the talks take place, we will also go with a great deal of hope and optimism into the talks.

Inter-state Water Dispute

*63. DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are inter-state water disputes between Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and various other States for the last so many years,

(b) if so, whether the Government have worked out any policy decision and common minimum programme for solving these disputes, and

(c) if so the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) Yes, Sir At present there are two inter-state water disputes namely :

1 Cauvery Water Disputes and

2 Ravi-Beas Water Disputes

(b) and (c) As per the existing practice, efforts are made to solve the water disputes through negotiations with the basin States In case the efforts do not fructify and if any one of the basin States approaches the Central Government to set up a Tribunal, the same is set up under Inter State Water Disputes Act 1956 to adjudicate. There is also a proposal for adopting National Policy Guidelines for water sharing

[English]

DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY Mr Speaker, Sir, the National Water Resources Council was set up in 1983 headed by the Prime Minister Its Vice-Chairman was the Union Minister The Chief Ministers of the respective States were its members In 1990 also they set up a National Water Board to settle the disputes and to go through all the transactions of inter-State waters But to my surprise, you have given clarification merely on Cauveri Water dispute and Ravi Beas Water dispute Nothing else is there It is not correct You remember that even in those days Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji said that irrigation projects were the modern temples This National Water Resources Council was set up with the same inspiration only with the Prime Minister as its

Chairman. But now we do not find much activity in that Council. Every irrigation project is modern temple of Lord Rama. You must give top priority to it.

I want to seek one clarification. The people of Andhra Pradesh have a grave misinformation about Almatti Dam in Karnataka. They have raised the Dam 30 feet more than what it was fixed. If they raise the Dam more than Bachawat specification, there is going to be a disaster for the people of Andhra Pradesh. They say that 155 TMC of water only could be used for Almatti dam in Karnataka. But if the dam is raised beyond the specified limit fixed by Bachawat Award, 400 TMC will be used by Karnataka.

Therefore, in case the dam is raised and if 400 TMC of water is used, the people of Andhra Pradesh will be losing irrigation facilities for 34 lakhs acres with the result Krishna, West Godavari and Guntur districts also will not have any irrigation facilities. I would like to know whether it has come to your notice that the dam has been raised beyond the specified height fixed by the Bachawat award.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has mentioned about National Water Commission and some other Commission. They have been constituted and their meetings are also held from time to time. Some Tribunals have given their award and some State Governments want to create a controversy on the basis of their verdicts which is not good. They are categorising several multipurpose projects as controversial and not as disputed. Similarly several State Governments have objected to the Almatti project. Government has nothing to say in it. We want that the respective State Governments should resolve this issue after holding discussions because the Tribunal has given its verdict in this regard.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: My second question is this. The hon. Minister is taking it very lightly. But there is some dispute. Something is going on. It is not so easy.

[Translation]

I am speaking keeping in view the welfare of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

[English]

The people of Andhra Pradesh are, in fact, sentimentally, logically and politicaly agitated over this problem. Therefore, a few days back the Members of Parliament of Andhra Pradesh Congress Party met the hon. Prime Minister in a delegation and the hon. Prime Minister, of course, clarified that we need not agitate and that the dam is not raised at all beyond a certain limit. But still the people of Andhra Pradesh are not satisfied.

My question to you is whether the Minister, as assured by the hon. Prime Minister, can arrange to send immediately a high-powered Committee consisting of the respresentatives of the Ministries concerned and also Members of Parliament of both the States to settle it immediately within fifteen days or one month or two months so that misundertsanding will not be there in the minds of the people of Andhra Pradesh and also it will not give any opportunity to the people of Andhra Pradesh to resort to any more agitations.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when any new project involving water is started then panic grips some States. It has happened this time also. The people of the state depend upon river water for irrigation whether it is Krishan river or Godawari. People cry out and their emotions burst. As the hon'ble Member has said, the Central Government makes arrangements for holding discussions among the concerned states and if necessary it sends an expert committee also. If dispute gets intensified and they do not reach at any settlement and the State Governements take rigid stand because it is a question of the welfare of the people of these states. However the hon'ble Member has not asked question but he has given an advice that whether the Centra Government would send a high powered committee including Members of Parliament on its behalf. Central Government cannot send a high powered committee because the irrigation and water are the state's subject therefore it cannot be considered by high-powered committee. It can be resolved with the help of Panchayati power.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I am sorry that the hon. Minister has not understood my problem at all. Whether it is a high-powered committee or medium powered committe or low-powered committee it does not mean anything. What I am saying is this. It is a burning problem and the people of Andhra Pradesh are agitating for this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have had enough of it.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: He has taken it very lightly. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I requested the hon. Minister to clear the doubts. But the Minister is not understanding the serious problem.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to do it. He has replied to your question.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, there are two issues involved in this problem. The first problem is the Cauvery water dispute and the second one is the Krishna water dispute. As regards the Cauvery water dispute, the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, while sorting out the issues on the directions of the Supreme Court, had promised to come out with or evolve a National Water Policy pending which he requested the State Government to release 5 tmcft of water. Following the request of the then Prime Minister, the Karnataka Government obliged to release 5 tmcft of water. Now, I would like to put a question to the Minister for Water Resources whether any steps have been taken to formulate or evolve a National Water Policy and if not whether the Prime Minister or the Government would take immediate steps to evolve a National Water Policy pending which the release of water to Tamil Nadu from Cauvery water basin could be phased out by mutual agreement and not by the interim orders of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

As regards the Almatti Dam, hon. Member Dr. Subbarami Reddy has raised some objections saying that the people of Andhra Pradesh have got apprehensions about the water being stored on the Karnataka side not being released to the riparian districts downstream. It has been made very clear by the Karnataka Government that the height of the Dam is raised to store the water as is allotted to Karnataka. We are not going to take any extra drop of water from that. There is the Bachawat Award according to which Karnataka has to get some share. We are utilising only that share and that to we must do it expeditiously before the year 2000 A.D.

MR. SPEAKER : Where is your question?

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : I would like to request the hon. Minister for Water Resources that there should not be any objection from either the Centre or the Government of Andhra Pradesh to raise the height of the Almatti Dam. Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Minister would evolve a National Water Policy very soon and see that the dispute is settled amicably.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already answered that question.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Central Government has not given clearance to the Almatti dam. It is only a proposal. As I said in the beginning, some states get panicky because it is a queation of the drinking water and irrigation for the people of state. This panic sometimes creates various sorts of feelings. Clearance has not been given to it as yet. The project is under consideration but they have created these rumours before that, this is not a good thing.

The scond thing, that the hon'ble Member has said is that the Tribunal has not yet given its interim judgement in regard to Cauvery-Water dispute. The people of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are passing through the situation which prevails between the time of interim and final decision.

This time, the assessment in regard to rainfall during the month of June shows that the reservoirs have received less quantity of water. Even then the Chief Minister of Karnataka has made an announcement to release water though the required quantity of water has not been released because of shortage of water. Hydrology law provides that any award should be based on ecological balance in nature. If the reservoirs have resumed less water then it becomes the problem of the people of both the states, the supplying state and the receiving state. Then the interest of both the states is to be taken note of. It is a fact that the Government of Tamilnadu has approached the Supreme Court but since the Chief Minister of Karnataka has decided to a release water, it appears that the matter has been settled for some days.

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government has got any proposal to set up a statutory authority or a constitutional body to administer and monitor the decision given or to be given by the Tribunal or the court of law.

MR. SPEAKER : A question should be as short as this so that we get more time.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA : There could not be any statutory authority like this because I am of the view if the Central Government starts interfering much in the matters of the State Governments, then the framework of the constitution will get distorted.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has mentioned in his last sentence of the reply that there is a proposal to form a National Policy and guidelines for distribution of water. I would like to know through you as to whether the United Front Government considers the river water as the National asset and whether this Government is of the view that the distribution of river water in different states should be on the basis of the requirement of the states and not on the basis of regional parochial claims? If so, the steps proposed to be taken by this Government to declare the river water as National asset?

SHRI JANESWAR MISHRA : The United Front Governement has proposed to form a National Policy and guidelines regarding water distribution. We consider that water is a National asset. We also feel that arangement should be made for irrigation in those areas where there is no river. The people of those areas, where rivers are flowing claim their

right on those rivers. We are also of the view that the feelings of the people of the areas where rivers flow are associated with them. Hence, there may be chances of conflict among states if we interfere in the matter unnecessarily. Therefore, in 1956 a law was enacted to constitute a Tribunal, under which we try to find a way out to ease the tension arising among the states.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA My question is very clear. Once a Tribunal has given a decision in the case of Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada, once the State of Gujarat is constructing the Dam according to the parameters given by the Tribunal, once the State of Gujarat has sent Rs. 55 crore for the Dam, the height of the Dam was also decided by the Tribunal. What is the stand of the United Front Government if out of four States, one State is trying to distort in one way or the other, in one name or another?

What will be the stand of the United Front Government about the reducing the height of the dam in spite of opposition of Gujarat? Will they see that the Tribunal's award which is final, will be implemented. Or will they permit them to have 'cherchhar' according to the 'jazbaat' of different States? My question is very clear and I do not want to indulge in any 'jazbaat' and all sorts of things like that. The Tribunal had given a decision. 250 MW power station is ready but the country is still without power.

So, in this situation what will be the approach of the United Front Government? Let the hon. Minister reply on it very clearly.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Prime Minister had called a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the concerned four states a week ago. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK It is again going to be held today evening.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA I have already discussed the matter in the meeting called a week ago and again a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the concerned four states is to be held today evening. Hon'ble Prime Minister is likely to discuss the matter with them. We hope that some solution will come out and all the states will mutually agree to follow the decision given in the award. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK This was not the question of Mr. Mehta. He had asked about the stand of the United Front Government to reduce the height of the Dam. *(Interruptions)* the award has been given. Since Narmada Project is the lifeline for Gujarat. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER Question No. 64 Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK Mr. Speaker, Shri Mehta has asked a very specific questin whether the Central Government is of the opinion to reduce the height of the dam. He has asked a very simple question. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as to when he is going to appoint. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK Sir, he has asked a very specific question. This Narmada Project is the lifeline of Gujarat. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER We have already spent 22 minutes on this question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA Sir, we want only five minutes. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK Sir, the whole of Gujarat is agitated on this issue. Let the Minister reply on this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER Look here. There are a number of questions on the list. We would like to cover as many questions as possible. We cannot spend so much time on one question. This is an issue which has received the attention of the Central Government and all the State Governments. As has been rightly pointed out, the Chief Ministers are meeting today. There will be a discussion with the Prime Minister. Let us see how it goes. Let us see how the discussion among the States and the Central Government goes. If there is any necessity for discussing this, I would consider later on. But at this stage, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK According to the Tribunal awards, no State can reduce the height of the dam. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that.

MR. SPEAKER Are you asking question no. 64?

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM Sir, I am a new Member and I come from Thanjavur. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to appoint the new Chairman of the Cauvery Water Tribunal.

MR. SPEAKER No, no.

Now, the Minister has to reply question 64.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA But Sir, I want a reply on my question.

MR. SPEAKER No, no. I have already passed on to the next question of Mr. Mehta. Please sit down. I have given an assurance that if necessary we will have.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA Sir, I have not got the reply. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, I demand Half-an-hour discussion on this question...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, have you anything more to say?

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : The hon Minister is here. Please listen to the answer.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER . Please do not complicate. The hon Minister is replying.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA . Mr Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has raised here the issue of the height of the Dam This issue is being raised in the meeting today This issue has already been raised and discussed in the meeting of Chief Minister and Officers In this connection I do not want to give any assurance but I must say that different interpretation of the decision is taken Still I hope that we will come to a conclusion after having discussion with the Chief Ministers of all the concerned four states.

[English]

SHRI S S PALANIMANICKAM What is the use of organising the orientation course for new Members? I am from the affected area of Thanjavur and I am not being allowed to put a supplementary question

MR SPEAKER So many people are affected I do understand that But the next question is also very important It is about universal education

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER Okay last question Shri Mishra, there is one more question for you

SHRI S S PALANIMANICKAM Regarding the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal I would like to know from the hon Minister as to when he is going to appoint a new Chairman to the Tribunal Secondly we have got the interim award two years back. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to implement the interim award of the Tribunal and solve the problems of the farmers of Tamil Nadu, particularly the farmers of Thanjavur.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : The Chairman of the Tribunal has given his resignation due personal resons. Our ministry has received the information of his resignation only a day or so before. It is to be referred to the Supreme Court through Ministry of Law and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs with the request to appoint some other Hon'ble Justice in his place.

[English]

Pending Irrigation Projects in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

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65 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether a number of major & medium irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are pending with the Union Government for clearance

(b) if so the details of such schemes alongwith reasons for non-clearance State-wise.

(c) whether the Union Government propose to lay down any time schedule for clearance of these schemes, and

(d) if so the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Details of new Major and Medium Irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan received for clearance by the Centre

S No	Name of Project	Estimated cost (Rs crores)	Ultimate Irrigation Potential (hectares)	Date of receipt in CWC	Status of Techno-economic appraisal
1	2	3	4	5	6
	MADHYA PRADESH				
(A)	Techno-economic examination completed and found acceptable by the Advisory Committee subject to compliance of certain observations by the State Government				